

I have recently heard that the Sinclair Broadcast Group is planning to illegally preempt regular programming to air a partisan political broadcast during the next few weeks, the final weeks of the 2004 Presidential election campaign.

I hope that the FCC will respond quickly and appropriately to this illegal usurpation of the public airwaves, and make it clear to Sinclair that they will lose their broadcast licenses if they take this egregious step.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you.